

**COMPLIMENTS**  
**A Peace Play**  
**Adapted by Carole L. Cooney**

A Woolly-necked Stork is a large bird with a black body that glistens green and purple in the sunlight. It has a puffy, woolly, white neck, a white head and dark red eyes outlined in black.

A Painted Stork is a large bird with a white body with black feathers. Its head is red, its bill is yellow with a long red streak, and its legs and tail are pink!

These birds make a loud clacking sound with their bills.

**Setting:** A marshy pond by a grove of trees

**Characters:**

**Narrator**

**Fluff, a female Woolly-necked Stork**

**Butte, a male Woolly-necked Stork**

**Red, a male Painted Stork**

**Narrator:** One day, Butte, a Woolly-necked stork was building a nest in a tall tree by a marshy pond. He had been gathering leaves and sticks all day. He flapped his large black wings after he dropped the last stick.

**Fluff:** Oh, Butte! (clack, clack) Just look at you! You are the handsomest stork I've ever seen.

**Butte:** Thank you, Fluff. You're pretty gorgeous yourself. (clack, clack) Now, the nest is finished, so please fly in and get comfortable. I'll fly to the pond and catch a few fish for our supper.

**Narrator:** Butte started hunting for fish in the marshy water. Slowly, he moved his open bill back and forth, back and forth. Suddenly, Red, a Painted Stork, flew down and grabbed the fish headed toward Buttes' mouth.

**Red:** (chomping on the fish) Hey, Big Guy, how's the fishing? Caught any? (clack, clack, clack) I don't know why I should even ask. I already know the answer.

**Butte:** (hanging his head down) Well, what is your answer, as if I didn't know.

**Red:** (strutting in a circle) You know I'm a better fisher than you, so the answer is you haven't caught a single fish, yet. Right? (clack, clack, clack)

**Butte:** Hey, I just got started. (clack, clack, clack!)

**Red:** (sticking his bill in the air) So... why do you even try? (clack, clack, clack,)

**Narrator:** Butte decided there was not use arguing with Red. He flew to the far end of the marsh to try his luck at fishing there. Meanwhile, Fluff saw Red steal Butte's fish, and she heard him making fun of Butte. She didn't like it!

**Fluff:** (calling) Red! (clack, clack, clack) Oh, Red! I'd like to talk with you.

**Red:** (Eating the fish) Yes, Fluff. (Chomp, chomp!) What's up?

**Fluff:** Stop eating and listen to me! I heard the way you were making fun of Butte's fishing. That's not fair. He is exhausted from spending the whole day building my nest. But that didn't stop him from fishing for my supper. And – YOU – YOU STOLE HIS FISH! (clack, clack, clack)

**Red:** (embarrassed) Hmmm... I suppose you're right. Sorry, Fluff. I better talk to Butte.

**Narrator:** Red flew down to the far edge of the marsh where Butte was fishing.

**Red:** Butte, (clack, clack, clack) I guess I didn't realize how hard you worked today.

**Butte:** (clack, clack, clack) Red, I know you're a better fisher than I am. In fact, you're a better stork than I am.

**Red:** Where did you get that idea? (clack!)

**Butte:** Just look at yourself. You've got great colors on your body - everywhere! Black and white, yellow, red and even pink! Who ever made you sure knew about colors. (clack, clack!)

**Red:** Stop! (clack!) I can't help the way I look. In fact, I think I look weird. AND my looks don't make me a better stork!

**Butte:** Okay! Well, I think you're one of the cleverest storks ...

**Narrator:** Just then Fluff flew between the two storks with a big smile on her face.

**Fluff:** (clack, clack, clack) Now this is the kind of talk I like to hear. I like to hear COMPLIMENTS! So, my two fishers, let's all get some supper – we can make a huge catch in no time.

**Narrator:** And the three storks fished quietly in the marshy water. Suddenly a whole school of fish appeared. Many fish were quickly snapped up into the storks' bills. Then, the storks flew to the tree tops to eat. And from that day on, the three storks were the best of friends.